

Message Text

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UNCLAS QUITO 4285

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EC

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: FURTHER CRITICISM OF POLICIES

1. EL TIEMPO OF QUITO JOINED THE ATTACK TODAY ON DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION POLICIES THAT HAVE RESULTED IN A SHARP DROP IN TOURISM. EDITORIAL COLUMNIST MIGUEL ARIAS ALENCASTRO, IN AN ARTICLE HEADLINED "CIVIL AVIATION: LACK OF DIALOGUE," CRITICIZED THE DIRECTORATE FOR ITS FAILURE TO ATTEND A MEETING ON THE SUBJECT, PREFERRING INSTEAD TO ISSUE A PRESS STATEMENT AFTERWARD CLAIMING ITS POLICIES WERE BASED ON "ABSOLUTE RECIPROCITY."

2. ARIAS ALENCASTRO SAID THE PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY AS SUCH IS NOT UNDER DISCUSSION, AND IS ALSO BEING APPLIED BY PERU IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRANIFF. "BUT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN OUR CASE, IN THAT THE PERUVIAN AIRLINE HAS ENOUGH AIRPLANES TO NEGOTIATE A DAILY FLIGHT TO THE UNITED STATES AND ABSORB PASSENGER SPACE IN SIMILAR VOLUME..." THE ARTICLE SAID.

3. "TO HAVE TWO PLANES IN SERVICE BY AN AIRLINE MEANS TO HAVE ONE PLANE IN THE AIR AND THE OTHER ON THE GROUND. AND THAT IS WHAT OCCURS WITH OUR COMPANY 'ECUATORIANA' AT THIS TIME. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS WORTHWHILE TO ASK
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HOW RECIPROCITY IS APPLIED TO THE FREQUENCIES (OF FLIGHTS)

BETWEEN ECUATORIANA AND LUFTHANSA OR AIR FRANCE?

4. "IT HAS BEEN SAID -- AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE SAID -- THAT NATIONAL AIR SPACE MUST BE DEFENDED WITH THE SAME ZEAL THAT WE DEFEND THE MARITIME SPACE OF 200 MILES. BUT IT WILL ALSO BE ADMITTED THAT THAT IS A NEGOTIABLE RIGHT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COUNTRY.

5. "THE DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION HAS FAILED TO LOOK AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN, WHICH IS THE ECONOMIC LOSS THAT ACCOMPANIES A LOSS OF TOURISM. IF WE LOOK AT THE FIGURES SHOWN BY A PRIVATE TOURIST FIRM, THUS FAR IN 1975 EIGHT THOUSAND TOURISTS HAVE NOT COME TO ECUADOR FOR LACK OF SPACE ON INCOMING OR OUTGOING FLIGHTS. THAT MEANS, AT 300 DOLLARS A TOURIST, A LOSS OF TOURIST INCOME THAT TOTALS 2,400,000 DOLLARS.

6. "I BELIEVE THE CRITICAL STATE OF THE PROBLEM CAN AND MUST BE EASILY OVERCOME THROUGH AN INTELLIGENT DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION, THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM AND PRIVATE TOURIST COMPANIES. BECAUSE THERE CANNOT BE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST BETWEEN TWO STATE ORGANIZATIONS THAT MUST HARMONIZE THEIR ACTION TO CONCILIATE THE HIGHEST NATIONAL INTERESTS WITH THE SOLID AND CLEAR INTERESTS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR THAT IS DEDICATED TO TOURISM IN ECUADOR."
BREWSTER

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